

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Lesson of Darkness

Other known title(s): Japanese anime movie- "Lesson of Darkness"

OFLC ref: 1800581.006

Medium: Video File

Director: Tsutomu Yabuki

Producer: Saburo Omiya

Country of origin: Japan

Language: Japanese

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Violence, sexual violence and explicit sex scenes.

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 16 April 2019

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 16 April 2019

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	Lesson of Darkness	45:25
Total running time:		45:25

Summary of reasons for decision:

The video file contains a commercially made Japanese film that is an example of hentai tentacle erotica. While sexual violence is gratuitously and explicitly presented, here it is in the context of the Japanese tentacle porn genre. The impact of the sexual violence, particularly the problematic messages around consent and rape myths, is significantly reduced by the animated nature of the film. The impossible scenario is unlikely to encourage imitation in a real-world context. While some viewers (even adults) may be shocked and disturbed by the content it is well contextualised as

Japanese tentacle porn. However, children and teenagers are unlikely to have the necessary skills to interpret the content in the manner in which it is intended. They are likely to be shocked and disturbed by the depictions of rape, or be inured by the way rape is trivialised for entertainment. In addition, society perceives a harm to younger audiences from being exposed to sexually explicit adult material before they are developmentally ready to process it. Further, the depictions of violence and horror are likely to be shocking and disturbing to children. Taking the above into consideration the film is restricted to adults. This is a limitation on the right to freedom of expression expressed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 but it is reasonable and justified given the risk of injury to the public good.